



New Hampshire

# Department of Education

## **Seventeenth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony**

Honoring the:

National Blue Ribbon School

New Hampshire Recipients of the Presidential Award for  
Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year  
Semi-Finalists, Finalists and the  
New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Dec. 6, 2018

*Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding educators who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.*

**#educateNH**

## **Program**

Welcome Reception

Emcee – Sean McDonald  
Anchor/Chronicle Host, WMUR

Welcome and Remarks by Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner of Education

Remarks by Heidi Crumrine  
2018 NH Teacher of the Year

Dinner

Blue Ribbon School

NH Presidential Award for Excellence in  
Mathematics and Science Teaching

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists,  
Finalists, and Teacher of the Year

Remarks by Keith Noyes  
2019 NH Teacher of the Year

Close

**Message from Frank Edelblut  
New Hampshire's Commissioner of Education**

Tonight, at the 17th Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony, we honor educators who are working to provide a quality education to each student in New Hampshire. While all classroom teachers should be recognized on a daily basis, the New Hampshire Department of Education annually honors exemplary educators through various recognition programs, using their example to inspire and motivate others throughout the state.

The department hopes to foster excellence in education by administering statewide programs that enhance the capabilities of our schools to strengthen the teaching profession, stimulate high student achievement, cultivate partnerships with schools and businesses, and celebrate the successes in K-12 education

The goal of these awards is to amplify teacher voice and empower educators to take part in critical conversations regarding decisions affecting students, teachers and public education as a whole. Teachers change lives and create futures — not only for our students but for our communities, our state and our nation. It's only fitting that we should celebrate their role.

These awards recognize the total commitment to excellence in education in New Hampshire and all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning in their classrooms for some of our exemplary schools and outstanding educators using measures that go beyond the simple analysis of test scores.

We should all be proud that we are creating more opportunities for our students that meet their individual learning styles and help them reach high levels of achievement. I want to thank all the educators for what they do to provide the best educational opportunities for Granite State children.

**Heidi Crumrine  
2018 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year**

Heidi Crumrine is an English teacher at Concord High School in Concord. She is in her 17th year of teaching, including three years in the New York City public schools. Heidi's passion is igniting a love of reading in her students. She believes that reading is the key to success and that putting the right book into the hands of the right kid at the right time can change the trajectory of his or her entire life.

She has taught English/Language Arts in Grades 7-12 to students of various abilities, interests, and backgrounds. She has collaborated on school, district, and statewide curriculum development committees, assisted with grade-level competency creation, served as an advisor in the CHS advisory program, mentored pre-service teachers from nearby colleges, and coached middle school field hockey.

More recently, she has helped target academically at-risk students in their English classes and offered support, skill reinforcement, and facilitated interventions with their classroom teachers. Heidi strongly believes that our public schools are the great equalizer, and she finds great joy in working with young people and seeing them find success on their journey to adulthood. What brings her the most joy is engaging with the students in front of her, who she knows are the best hope for the future.

Heidi has a B.S. in Family Studies from the University of New Hampshire, an M.A.T. in English Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and an M.Ed. in Reading

Instruction from Grand Canyon University. She will soon be entering a doctoral program in Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment through Walden University.

### **National Blue Ribbon Schools**

Each year since 1982, the U. S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools - schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. These Blue Ribbon Schools are an example of what teachers and students can achieve.

The U.S. Secretary of Education invites each state's Chief State School Officer/Commissioner to nominate schools for recognition as National Blue Ribbon Schools. Based on state data, the commissioner certifies that the submitted schools meet one of two performance categories. These schools are among New Hampshire's highest performing schools.

### **Mast Way School, Lee**

Carrie Vaich, Principal

Mast Way School (MWS) is a welcoming, caring, and safe schoolhouse where staff remain true to supporting all aspects of every child's development. They put great care into crafting curriculum focused around academic, social-emotional, developmental, and physical growth for students. Knowing that all students are individuals, they celebrate student strengths while supporting weaker areas as needed. Rich opportunities to explore through physical education, technology/engineering, music, art, and literacy are infused into the culture of Mast Way School. Blending classroom and real-world learning through field lessons and hands-on activities with local community members and historians make learning meaningful to our (their) young learners. The PTO supports many of these authentic learning activities for their students.

Events such as all school meetings provide opportunities for students to view themselves as part of a greater community and share their learning through various modalities in an exciting manner with their peers. They believe in honoring traditions yet, are always seeking innovative practices to support learners. The teachers at MWS utilize their creativity on a daily basis to engage students and provide rich instruction throughout the year. Staff develop school-wide themes to strengthen a thread of continuity throughout the school house.

Partnering with parents and guardians provides the opportunity to develop long-lasting connections. Many parents still volunteer at Mast Way even after their students move onto upper grade levels, a true sign of the Mast Way family. Mast Way is a special place where they strive to maintain a shared vision aligned with the Oyster River district mission, *Working Together to Engage All Learners*.

### **Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**

The PAEMST is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House. Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential Awards are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. These New Hampshire recipients are in the running to be selected at the national level

The award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession, as well as acknowledge educators who are models in both their

classrooms and in their communities. In addition this award provides positive examples for pupils and peers alike. The teachers receiving these awards are recognized for greatly improving their students' understanding in science and mathematics, for exemplary teaching, and for demonstrating educational goals that help them maintain positions of professional leadership. The goal of the program is to encourage highly capable individuals to enter and remain in the teaching field.

The competition alternates each year between teachers of grades K-6 and grades 7-12. After an initial selection process at the state level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends teachers to receive a national PAEMST. Winners at the national level receive a \$10,000 award from NSF, as well as a trip for two to Washington, D.C., for a week of celebratory events and professional development activities.

## **About the NH Recipients**

### **Science**

#### **Bryan Smith**

School: Bethlehem Elementary School

Teaching Experience: 17 Years

Bryan currently teaches fourth grade at Bethlehem Elementary School in Bethlehem. He believes that it is through scientific inquiry and the engineering process that students are best able to access the kinds of authentic and meaningful learning that build enduring understandings, regardless of the curricular content. Through skill development and fostering a mindset of lifelong learning, every student is empowered to question, experiment, and explore their world and their interests.

Student interests, student-led inquiry, and empowering students is at the heart of Bryan's classroom. Whether through drafting laws and debating as part of their student-led class government, presenting their science fair projects to the wider town community, or collaborating with the Gulf of Maine Institute, students are encouraged to deepen their understanding and to share their questions and interests with others. Fostering a sense of curiosity and wonder lays the foundation for cross-disciplinary inquiry, connections, and deeper meaning.

The activity featured in the PAEMST video shows an engineering project involving a mini-hydroelectric generator. This was just one part of a year-long unit on Watershed Studies. This multidisciplinary unit combines environmental awareness, the study of energy and geological changes, as well as providing real-life opportunities to learn about the process of engineering and science.

The students were challenged to design, construct and test a waterwheel that would successfully turn the hydroelectric generator and create electricity. The video spotlights the last part of the last class, and students who were struggling to complete the project. Through the process of questioning and the power of student collaboration, the students had their "lightbulb" moment and were able to move forward successfully and enthusiastically.

Bryan has served the past two years as a Science Content Lead in New Hampshire's Performance Assessment Competencies in Education (PACE) initiative. He is also a member of the Gulf of Maine Institute. He received his BS in Human Services at Charter Oak State College and his teaching certification through the University of Maine.

**Greg Snoke**

School: Captain Samuel Douglas Academy, Brookline

Teaching Experience: 22 Years

Greg teaches sixth grade at Captain Samuel Douglass Academy in Brookline. He has spent the past 17 years teaching Science, Mathematics, and Language Arts to the sixth graders of Brookline. Before his current tenure, Greg was the sixth grade math teacher at Franklin Middle School in Franklin. Twenty-two total years in teaching, all in the sixth grade.

Greg strives to have a personal connection with each and every one of his students. He believes that through a positive, personal connection, and a story to bring home to the dinner table about the day's events, students will find success in their educational growth as they prepare to move onto the challenges of middle school. Inspiring students to learn by creating a fluid, trusted learning community, and using what motivates each student to engage every learner is one of Greg's time-tested teaching philosophies. Learning while having fun through genuine inquiry, collaboration, communication and collective problem solving are the tenets of a successful classroom experience.

The activity that Greg featured in his PAEMST video shows a physical science lab involving K'NEX racers and the manipulation of gear ratio for the purpose of measuring both work and power. The lesson is the final lab in a series of activities designed to prepare the sixth graders for their culminating performance assessment, entitled the Egg Dash, Smash, & Crash. This update to the time-honored Egg Drop has students engineer a K'NEX racer to compete in an event that requires vehicles to be fast, efficient, powerful, and safe, all the while housing a raw egg. The video shows the various groups of students following a procedure to collect, share, and analyze data. The questioning process and student collaboration allowed these students to determine which of the gear ratios produced the most powerful racer and helped them gain one last bit of knowledge to consider when designing a successful vehicle.

Greg received his Bachelor of Science in Education at Ohio University, and his Masters in Mathematics Education through Plymouth State University. Greg has been selected to present a workshop on his Science Fair for Engineering Optimization at the upcoming NSTA National Conference on Science Education in St. Louis, Missouri this coming April.

**New Hampshire Teacher of the Year**

Each year since 1952, New Hampshire schools have taken part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. Educators are selected from any New Hampshire state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, if they are planning to continue in an active teaching status. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is capable of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. The Teacher of the Year serves as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning. This individual has the respect and admiration of their colleagues and:

- is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence;
- collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success;
- deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large;

- demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning;
- expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way; and
- is committed to improving education.

In New Hampshire, Geskus Studios and Yearbook Publishing is proud to partner with the NH DOE to help sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year program.

“Day in and day out, we work alongside teachers and see how much passion and dedication they put into the lives of future generations. With so many astounding teachers in the state, we feel honored to be a part of such an important tradition,” said Rich Carroll, the president of the company. “Congratulations to all the teachers being recognized tonight and thank you to all New Hampshire teachers for their commitment to their profession and their advocacy for their students.”

The National Teacher of the Year program, run by the Council of Chief State School Officers and presented by Voya Financial, identifies exceptional teachers in the country, recognizes their effective work in the classroom, amplifies their voices, and empowers them to participate in policy discussions at the state and national levels. It is the oldest and most prestigious honors program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching.

## **About the Recipient**

### **Keith Noyes**

Belmont Middle School

Teaching Experience: 18 Years

Keith Noyes, of Laconia, has been a fifth grade teacher at Belmont Middle School for six years. Keith says he has been fortunate to be able to teach subjects that he loves including science, math, and writing. While they have their own unique challenges as subject matters, each is enjoyable and allows for great creativity.

The selection committee recognized his commitment to all students and his ability to reach each of them. He successfully creates and implements meaningful, engaging and personalized lessons that focus on his student’s individual needs to better allow the children to succeed.

Preserving and working toward a positive school culture is critical to teachers and students and is one of Keith’s core beliefs. It is these everyday moments, he says, of how students treat one another that makes teachers begin to see that the results of their labor are working. He says, “the discussions and experiences we expose our students to ultimately impact the culture of our building but, more importantly, allow for these students to enter adulthood being kind hearted citizens.”

Keith created the acronym CARE – compassion, acceptance, respect, empathy – to give students a theme and purpose while performing information research projects. Keith also helped organize and implement “mix it up days” at lunch so that students would interact with other students they didn’t know. He has encouraged students to organize a food drive – Gobble Wobble – to help others in their community. Last year, more than 4,000 lbs. of food was donated to a local pantry. Students also raised money for Make-A-Wish as part of a persuasive writing assignment.

He says, “I’ve found that learning needs to be relevant and choices should be offered as frequently as possible. Realizing that all learners obtain, store, and retrieve learning at different rates and through unique experiences, has shifted the way I teach, assess, and ultimately determine each child’s level of proficiency. He added, “building strong relationships with kids is the foundation for all I hope to achieve with my students.”

Keith holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s in reading and writing from Plymouth State. He has also worked with the New Hampshire Department of Safety, in its Marine Patrol division, and has been a GED teacher at the Belknap County Jail, but is certainly most at home when teaching and guiding his middle school students.

### **2019 NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists**

- Elizabeth Alexakos, Clark Wilkins Elementary, Amherst, First Grade
- Kristina Hartwell, Wheelock Elementary, Keene, First Grade
- Bradley Smith, Milford High School, Music/Band

### **2019 NH Teacher of the Year Finalists**

- Aaron Blais, Exeter High School, Social Studies
- Lori Christerson, Bishop Brady High School, Concord, Science
- Alice Donahoe, James Mastricola Elementary, Merrimack, Fourth Grade
- Allison Leach, Spaulding High School, Rochester, Earth Science

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The mission of the Department of Education is to provide educational leadership and services that promote equal educational opportunities and quality practices and programs that enable New Hampshire residents to become fully productive members of society.